

Disability and Abuse Newsfeed

Week of November 24 to November 30, 2018

Articles Compiled by Debra J. Stemmler

Editing and Commentary by Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.,

Posting by Thomas F. Coleman

Articles are listed in alphabetical order by state within each category, so you can easily scan through the articles for those within your state or other states in which you have an interest. *International* articles are near the end. The categories are: *Abuse and Neglect, Guardianship, Laws & Legislation, Studies & Statistics, Improved Supports, International*, and sometimes, *Miscellaneous*.

Check the categories below for a guide to types of abuse. The categories are indicated by type, and the number of the article.

Type of Abuse and Neglect:

Sexual Assault: 1,4,5,15, 35, 37, 39, 49

Emotional/Verbal Abuse: 9, 11

Physical Abuse: 3m 7, 11, 13, 36, 43, 46

Murder: 6, 8, 10, 12, 38, 41, 42, 44

Related to special education: 2, 4

Social Media Abuse: 9

Access/ADA: 2, 14

WINNER of most egregious award: 17: Guardianship and theft

WINNER of “good job” award: 16: Guardianship reform

WHO DUN IT (listed by article number):

Family: 6, 8, 9, 11, 36

Carer: 1, 7, 12, 39

Hospital (staff): 1, 3, 7

Stranger: 12, 14, 15

Special education employee: 1, 4

Bus driver: 1

Law Enforcement: 10, 42, 44

Men: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 35, 37, 39

Women: 8, 9, 12, 36

Good News: 32: Study shows higher rate of alternative gender identity in those with autism

Bad News: 25: Study shows 12.6% of individuals with physical disabilities report history of rape; 33: Shocking children/adults with disabilities said to have therapeutic benefits; 40: Autistic teen called police for help after attack, told to run home: 45: increased stigma found toward those with HIV.

PLEASE NOTE: Visit our website at www.disabilityandabuse.org While on the homepage, we invite you to “like” us at the bottom of the page, making it easier to keep up with our activities! Prior weekly newsfeeds are archived at: <http://disabilityandabuse.org/newsfeed/contents.htm>

ABUSE & NEGLECT

1. “Former Employee Pleads Guilty to Sex Crimes at Florence Nursing Home” - Zachariah Lee Reeves had initially been charged with sodomy and elder abuse after an incident in November 2017 at Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted sodomy. – WAFF 48 – November 26, 2018 – (Alabama) - <https://is.gd/4FIPcR>

2. "Lawsuit Contends Central Arkansas School District Resists Allowing Service Dog" - A certified service dog who was trained to help a 16-year-old girl with severe anxiety overcome panic attacks has been prevented from accompanying the girl to school in the Conway School District, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal lawsuit alleges. – Arkansas Democrat Gazette- November 24, 2018 – (Arkansas) - <https://is.gd/xUSNZR>
3. "Man Charged with Attempted Murder in Attack on Woman in Waterbury Nursing Home" - The man, John Jensen, 81, was charged with attempted murder, strangulation and other charges, police said. – Hartford Courant – November 24, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/i366Tt>
4. "Connecticut Special Ed Teacher Pleads No Contest to Sex with Students" - Laura Calladio Ramos, 32, pleaded no contest Monday to second-degree sexual assault and violating a protective order. – ABC News – November 27, 2018 – (Connecticut) - <https://is.gd/xT960a>
5. "Man Sentenced for Sexually Abusing Mentally Disabled Girl" - A 39-year-old Lawrence man who molested a girl with mental disabilities was sentenced to just over 10 years in prison. Steven Capps was sentenced Wednesday after previously pleading no contest to two counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child. The girl was 14 when the abuse occurred.- KSNT – November 29, 2018 – (Kansas) - <https://is.gd/IKGTTs>
6. "Trial Date Set for Man Accused of Neglecting Mother 'for Months and Months'" - A trial date is set for a man police said abused or neglected his own mother "for months and months" before she died. – WYMT – November 26, 2018 – (Kentucky)- <https://is.gd/Apvs0K>

7. "Police Reports Detail Fights, Sex Crimes at Iowa Academy for Troubled Youth" - Disability Rights Washington said it partnered with sister organization Disability Rights Iowa, based in Des Moines, to expose "a very restrictive and segregated institution where policies, training and oversight do not adequately protect against the risk of abusive restraints." – Des Moines Register – November 26, 2018 – (Iowa) - <https://is.gd/b7ZQ3D>

8. "Mom, 2 Others Accused in Death of Special-Needs Woman" - News outlets report Louisiana authorities were called to a reported natural death on Friday and determined the Elizabeth woman had died from severe intentional neglect. Authorities on Tuesday arrested 47-year-old Karen Harrison Johnson, 52-year-old Marilyn Sue Maricle and 55-year-old Glen E. Maricle in the death of Johnson's daughter. – KLFY – November 29, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/hZZu5t>

9. "Woman Put Mentally Challenged Couple Having Sex on Facebook Live, Police Say" Tammie Sue Scott, 41, was arraigned Nov. 16 in Saginaw County District Court on one count of unlawfully posting a message. – Michigan Live – November 27, 2018 – (Michigan) - <https://is.gd/pFdto8>

10. "Trial Traces Distressful and Disjointed Last Day of Mentally Ill man Who Died in Police Custody" - The judge in the Scotty Payne trial ordered a recess as a juror breaks down bawling and collapses into the chest of the juror next to her. Prosecutors were showing the video of Zachary BearHeels being shocked with a Taser, punched and dragged back to a police car. – Omaha World Herald – November 29, 2018 – (Nebraska) <https://is.gd/9ngDvd>

11. "Man Arrested for Assaulting His Grandmother" - Although Thomas Ray Arrington, 43, was originally arrested in October, earlier this month, he was indicted by a Haywood County Grand Jury on additional charges related to the abuse. – The Mountaineer – November 26, 2018 – (North Carolina) - <https://is.gd/CX0qG2>

12. "Defense Questions Caretaking Deal in Erie Neglect Death" - The lawyers for an Erie pair charged in the neglect death of an 85-year-old man are seeking more details about the caretaking arrangement between the defendants and the victim. – Go Erie – November 26, 2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/Kw2L0r>

13. "Police: Autistic Man Attacked on SEPTA Bus in Center City" - Philadelphia police are searching for the person who assaulted a 34-year-old autistic man on a SEPTA bus in Center City last month. Investigators released a surveillance video of the October 26 incident on the Septa 48 bus near the 2000 block of Market Street. – ABC Action News – November 26 ,2018 – (Pennsylvania) - <https://is.gd/tpb8M2>

14. "Burglars Target Handicapped Women on Thanksgiving" - A San Antonio woman said her two custom wheelchair ramps were stolen after she celebrated Thanksgiving with her family. Without the ramps, she says, she is trapped in her own home. – KENS 5 – November 24, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/g9qobD>

15. "Riverdale Man with Sex Convictions Accused of Sexually Assaulting Disabled Teen" - on David Stephens, a 49-year-old Riverdale resident, was charged Tuesday with one count of forcible sodomy, a first-degree felony; object rape, a first-degree felony; and two counts of forcible sexual abuse,

both second-degree felonies. – Standard Examiner – November 23, 2018 – (Utah) <https://is.gd/oqyZnb>

GUARDIANSHIP

16. “How Justin Clark's Fight for Independence Transformed Disability Rights in Canada” - Following the ruling, guardianship laws were re-examined, and in some provinces, rewritten. Disability rights advocates say there is still a long way to go, but Clark's case paved the way for other people with disabilities fighting to make their own decisions, rather than have legal guardians make them on their behalf. -CBC- November 25, 2018- (Canada) - <https://is.gd/DuvBAS>

17. “Courts Fail To Protect 1.3 Million Vulnerable Americans In Guardianship Charges Senate Report” - Unscrupulous guardians acting with little oversight have used guardianship proceedings to obtain control of vulnerable individuals and have then used that control to liquidate assets and savings for their own personal benefit,” the Committee, led by Maine Senator Susan Collins, asserts in the study, which took a year to complete. – Forbes – November 28 ,2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/OR4ot0>

18. “The Guardianship Accountability Act” - Senator Bob Casey says states need to do more to protect older Americans. Casey released the new report during a Senate aging committee hearing on Wednesday. –PA Homepage – November 29, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/SNMONs>

19. “Couple Not Told of Special Guardianship Money Implications, Ombudsman Finds” - [A report by the local government and social care ombudsman](#) concluded Bedford council had not enabled ‘Mr and Mrs X’, who were experienced professional foster carers, to make a fully informed

decision. – Community Care – November 27, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/q7rk2i>

20. “Why Disabled Women Can't Access All Refuges” - Just one in ten domestic violence refuge spaces in the UK is accessible to people with physical disabilities, a BBC investigation has found. – BBC News – November 28, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/dcWqrA>

LAWS & LEGISLATION

21. “Judge Orders Hamilton County Schools to Pay \$103,274 in Student Disability Rights Case” - U.S. District Court Judge Curtis Collier ruled the department needs to reimburse Luka Hyde's family \$103,274 for five years of private education costs, including a tutor, putting a near-finish to the heavily litigated 2014 case. – Times Free Press – November 23, 2018 – (Tennessee) - <https://is.gd/hEnqJX>

22. “13-year-old with Autism Urges Lawmakers to Pass Legislation Ending 'Seclusion Rooms' in Schools” - A 13-year-old with autism is urging lawmakers to pass legislation banning “seclusion rooms” at schools. Alex Campbell visited Capitol Hill last week to speak with lawmakers, staff and others in support of the Keeping All Students Safe act. – The Hill – November 25, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/YIFQdO>

23. “D.C. Council Considers New Office to Resolve Sign-Language Woes” - This month, council member Charles Allen, Ward 6 Democrat, introduced legislation with member David Grosso, at-large independent, to create a new bureau: The Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Establishment Amendment Act of 2018 would establish a new office to take over

responsibility of ASL interpreters from the Office of Disability Rights. – The Washington Times – November 26, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/t8Lgfc>

24. “A Tendency to Physical Abuse: Upper Tribunal Clarifies Scope of Equality Act in Education Context — Katie Ayres” - Previous cases had decided that behavior which amounted to a ‘tendency to physical...abuse’ was not protected under the Equality Act 2010 in the case of children with behavioral difficulties. However, C&C reversed this line of authority. – UK Human Rights Blog – November 26, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - <https://is.gd/FMDbiY>

STUDIES & STATISTICS

25. “Women with Disabilities Come Together: Dependence Makes It Harder to Speak Up” - A study, in 12 districts of Odisha covering a sample of 729 women with disabilities, showed that 12.6 per cent of the physically disabled respondents reported to having been raped. – The Indian Express – December 1, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/58bEiq>

26. “Autism Prevalence Now 1 in 40 US Kids, Study Estimates” - A survey of parents across the United States estimates that one in 40 children has autism spectrum disorder, according to a study published Monday in the journal Pediatrics. In other words, the condition was reported in 2.5% of children, representing an estimated 1.5 million kids ages 3 to 17. – CNN- November 26, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/LhgJcN>

27. “Sexual Abuse of People with Disabilities” - The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (“RAINN”) reports that sexual assault and abuse of people with disabilities often goes unnoticed, and, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, people with disabilities are victimized

by crime at higher rates than the rest of the population. – JDSupra – November 28, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/JewJF2>

IMPROVED SUPPORTS

28. “Better Integration of Autistic Children Thanks to Assistive Technology” - Autistic children often react positively to technologies. Dealing with technologies is often easier for them than dealing with people, because they are easier for them to understand. – Innovations Origins – November 25, 2018 – (Austria) - <https://is.gd/JMmac8>

29. “Washington News: U.S. Attorney Liu Announces Initiative to Combat Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation” - The establishment of this initiative will enable the U.S. Attorney’s Office to further develop and coordinate its prosecution of these cases and enhance its overall support of older victims.- STL News – November 26, 2018 – (D.C.) - <https://is.gd/VfDbLv>

30. “Substance Abuse Help and a Food Pantry Get Agreements with Wraparound Center” - The school district entered into memoranda of understanding with Chestnut Health Systems, an agency that provides services for people with substance abuse and behavioral issues, and Hand Up Peoria, a local food pantry, to operate in the Wraparound Center. – Journal Star – November 26, 2018 – (Illinois) - <https://is.gd/RoF4rO>

31. “Lawmakers, Advocates Seek to Develop More Humane and Productive Approach to Treatment of Mental Illness” - A change in the direction for treatment of the mentally ill could improve life for millions of Americans, reduce the nation's prison population, and even save taxpayer money. – The Livingston Parish News – November 25, 2018 – (Louisiana) - <https://is.gd/crtJ9X>

32. “Why We Need to Respect Sexual Orientation, Gender Diversity in Autism”
However, emerging evidence suggests that autistic people are more likely to identify outside of conventional genders and sexualities than the general population is. The reasons for this are unclear, and they need to be studied.
– Spectrum – November 27, 2018 – (National) - <https://is.gd/2VR7Lg>
33. “Shock Therapy May Help Some Autistic Teens with Catatonia” - In this therapy, an electric current delivered to the brain triggers a seizure that may normalize the irregular brain activity. But the treatment is controversial, in part because of a misperception that it is painful. –
Spectrum – November 26, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/ygEEGG>
34. “Kenya-Vermont Connection Brings Help to Autistic Children”- Wanda Salter met Sellar Atieno two years ago, when the Bellows Falls Union High School teacher first went to Kenya. Since then, the two special educators have forged a professional and personal bond — all in the name of reaching African children on the autism spectrum. – Brattleboro Reformer –
November 30, 2018 – (Vermont) - <https://is.gd/s0k41C>

INTERNATIONAL

35. “Geelong Man Russell Clissold Found Guilty of Raping Intellectually Disabled Woman” - A County Court jury found Russell Clissold guilty of assaulting a woman with Down syndrome despite her telling him “to stop” and protesting “no”. – 9 News – November 27, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/HdNTqP>
36. “When a Mother Steals Her Daughter's Right to Parent with a Forced Hysterectomy” - It was at age 11 her mother agreed, in unison with medical

professionals and school staff, that she should be involuntarily sterilized. She was taken without her consent to a hospital and a forced hysterectomy was performed. Chanelle's choice to parent was forever stolen. – ABC – November 26, 2018 – (Australia) - <https://is.gd/HBkk3H>

37. “Police Arrests 1 in Rape of Tangail Disabled Woman” - The arrested suspect has been identified as Alam Khandakar alias Bishu Mia, 45, son of late Younus Khandaker of the same area. He was the driver of the bus in which the disabled woman was raped.- Dhaka Tribune – November 29, 2018 – (Bangladesh) - <https://is.gd/Mwl6FM>

38. “Doctors Who Certified a Woman as Autistic So She Could Get a Lethal Injection Face Jail Under Euthanasia Laws as Family Insist She Was Just Broken Hearted” - Three doctors who certified a woman as autistic so that she could die by euthanasia are set to go on trial in Belgium. – Daily Mail – November 24, 2018 – (Belgium) - <https://is.gd/ceJudW>

39. “Disabled Community Split Over High-Profile Rape Allegation” - The Chairperson of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities, U Aung Ko Myint, is being investigated under allegations that he repeatedly raped a blind masseuse under his care, police confirmed on November 14. – Frontier – November 28, 2018 – (Burma) - <https://is.gd/6YzedB>

40. “Autistic Teenager Called Police for Help as Attacker Chased Him but Was Told They Were 'Too Busy'” - Gary Concepcion dialed 999 as he ran, terrified, from a man who had just tried to strangle him. He said police told him they could not send anyone and advised him to run home. – Leicestershire Live – November 24, 2018 –(England) - <https://is.gd/qM04a5>

41. "Euthanasia of Woman with Asperger's Investigated as a Crime" - Belgian officials are investigating whether doctors improperly euthanized a woman who had been diagnosed with autism, the first criminal investigation in a euthanasia case since the practice was legalized in 2002 in the European nation. – The Mercury News – November 27, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/ccrJ1a>

42. "Mental Health Patient Struck Over 20 Times by Police" - A mental health patient restrained in a psychiatric room was struck to his body by police more than 20 times before his death, a misconduct panel has heard. – Express & Star – November 29, 2018 – (England) - <https://is.gd/F5mrbK>

43. "Disabled Rider Dragged Out of Wheelchair by Attacker" - A disabled show jumper who rode for Great Britain has had to stop competing because of injuries suffered when an attacker pulled her out of her wheelchair and dragged her across a road. – Metro – November 26, 2018 – (Great Britain) - <https://is.gd/FfdxE1>

44. "Entire Police Station Booked for Custodial Death in Agra" - Entire Sikandara police station was booked for murder of a 32-year-old man who died in police custody after he was tortured in front of his 55-year-old mother in Agra. – Indian Express – November 24, 2018 – (India) - <https://is.gd/y7kij9>

45. "Different and Forsaken: I was 15 When I Discovered I Had HIV" -People assume that people with disability are not sexually active. The stigma is worse for people with disability. Stigma is the prejudice, negative attitude and abuse directed at people based on their actual or perceived HIV status. – Daily Nation – November 28, 2018 – (Kenya) - <https://is.gd/riwUxd>

46. “Disabled Woman Allegedly Abused by Own Sister, Brother” - It is learned that the victim's 33-year-old sister and 35-year-old brother had allegedly been abusing her since childhood. – Straits Times – November 29, 2018 – (Malaysia) - <https://is.gd/RjF2Ke>
47. “Sexual Harassment: Is There Justice for Women with Disabilities?” - Research suggests that women with disabilities are more likely to experience domestic violence, emotional abuse, and sexual assault than women without disabilities. Women with disabilities may also feel more isolated and feel they are unable to report the abuse, or they may be dependent on the abuser for their care. – The New Times – November 28, 2018 – (Rwanda) - <https://is.gd/wkM127>
48. “Nursing Home Worker Cleared of Molesting Patient” - In clearing the 34-year-old of a molestation charge, the High Court said the nurse's testimony alone was not strong enough to prove the prosecution's case against the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. – The Straits Times – November 24, 2018 – (Singapore) - <https://is.gd/LYGIQ3>
49. “UPDATE: East Man (19) in Court for Raping Mentally Disabled Woman” - A 19-year-old man accused of raping a mentally disabled woman remains behind bars after he abandoned his bail application on Wednesday. – Pretoria East Rekord – November 29, 2018 – (South Africa) - <https://is.gd/jV4QRu>

MISCELLANEOUS

50. “Special Olympics Coach at Texas School Gives Black Athlete with Autism Confederate Hat” - A Texas school district says it was wrong for one of its

volunteer Special Olympics coaches to give a confederate flag hat to a black student athlete with autism, according to a report. – Fox News – November 25, 2018 – (Texas) - <https://is.gd/8ZbeAn>